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NFO STATI

TODAY: Heavy showers will sweep northeast across England, Wales and southeast Scotland this morning. Sunny spells with rain in the southwest later in the day. Rain in northern Scotland. Sunny spells elsewhere.

OUTLOOK: Tomorrow, stormy with a risk of gusts in the west and north. Heavy rain will clear northwards to leave showers. The strong winds will ease on Sunday, with sunny spells



POUND ABROAD

.....2.34 dollars2.08 dollars0.81 pounds ...37.94 korunas18.68 pesos Czech Republic .18.68 pc South Africa Thailand...... ..12.88 rand ..62.51 baht ..2.66 new lira1.83 dollars Turkey United States

EURO

0c 8c 13c 13c 19c 16c 23c

Monday Showers

ABROAD

Sunda

Showers

Star Weather

UK National forecast 0906 751 3641 5-day holiday forecast 0906 751 3642

Calls cost 75p/min from a BT landline



Recycled paper made up 80.3% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 2005



■ by GARY NICKS SHOPPERS' hopes of buying cheap booze and cigs from abroad online were torpe-

doed yesterday.
EU judges ruled they must travel outside the UK to purchases the goods

outside the UK to purchases the goods in low-duty countries.

Millions of Brits were hoping for a pre-Christmas bonanza so they could stock up on their computers – until the European Court of Justice's shock ruling.

Judges close web loophole

EURO

MILLIONS

FRIDAY

NOV 17

12, 22, 32, 33, 36 Lucky Star Numbers 2, 6

20 winners (including from UK) share jackpo and get £6.5m each

Massive savings could have been made because countries like Latvia charge just £7.20 for 200 cigs compared with around £55 in the UK.

However, the decision will not stop Brits going on cross-Channel "booze cruises", which already cost the taxman £lbillion in lost duty. Chancellor Gordon Brown

breathed a sign of relief last night as the Treasury stood to lose up to £15billion a year from cheap internet orders.
Retailers also feared huge losses. Ken Patel, spokesman for the Retailers Against Smuggling and a Leicester shop owner, said: "If the proposals had gone ahead, the livelihoods of many of our corner shopkeepers would have been seriously threatened."

Disease

Deborah Arnott, of the anti-cigarette charity ASH, welcomed the online ban, saying it would have led to an increase in tobacco and alcohol consumption resulting in more disease and premature death.

The Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers said it would have sparked a Christmas internet bar-

Calls cost 25p from a BT land-line. Lines close at midnight. Texts cost 25p plus network operator rates. In yesterday's ote, 89% of readers said junkle should NOT get free heroin.

bars. The legal dispute centred on a group of Dutch wine enthusiasts buying cheap

gain hunt that would have hit thousands of pubs and

EURO JUDGES

WRONG?

Yes: 0901 031 1521

No: 0901 031 1522

If you want to use SMS text: Yes text DSVOTE A to 82100 No text DSVOTE B to 82100

plonk from France.

The Star Says: Page 6

gary.nicks@dailystar.co.uk

LOTTO DAILY PLAY THURSDAY NOV 23 SATURDAY LOTTO

NOVEMBER 18 (B) 2D 32 42 4B 49

No ticket won the £5.6m jackpot imber: 2-7-6-3-0-8-4. No £500,000 wi

4 5 8 10 11 25 No ticket matched all 7 balls for the £30,000 prize

WEDNESDAY LOTTO **NOVEMBER 22 1529314549**

One ticket scooped the £2.5m jackpo Number: 8-3-9-2-5-8-8. No £500,000



Wedding song to be hit

TOM Cruise is planning on being Top Gun in the music charts by recording You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' with his new wife Katie Holmes.

his new wife Katie Holmes.
Crooning Cruise, 44, serenaded his bride, 27, above, with the Righteous Brothers' classic at his wedding last weekend at the Odescalchi Castle in Lake Bracciano, Italy.

And music moguls at the ceremony were stunned that Tom sang so well and received a standing ovation from the celebrity guests.

Romantic

So they have offered the pint-sized actor a mega-bucks deal to record the track as a romantic duet with actress Katie.

Tom is prepared to take them up on the offer on the condition that the money from the single's sales is donated to The Church of Scientology.

But record bosses are reluctant to give all of the single's earnings to the controversial religion, which was founded by

EXCLUSIVE by CHARLI MORGAN

eccentric sci-fi writer L Ron Hubbard. An insider said: "Tom's got a great voice. And he's loved that song ever since his Top Gun character Maverick sang it to woo his love interest Kelly McGillis.
"And Katle proved how talented she is musically when she performed in The Singing Detective remake.
"Despite the curious sentiments of the song, it means an awful lot to them both. "Music chiefs know it would be a massive hit so they don't want to lose all the money to a bizarre religious following. "And record labels are reluctant to be associated with the strange faith. "But Tom's adamant. He said the song is a symbol of their love and Scientology is the basis of their companionship."
The couple were criticised for turning their wedding day into a recruitment drive for their religious beliefs – by placing a Scientology adviser on every table.

Good for Hood



RETURNING: Armstrong

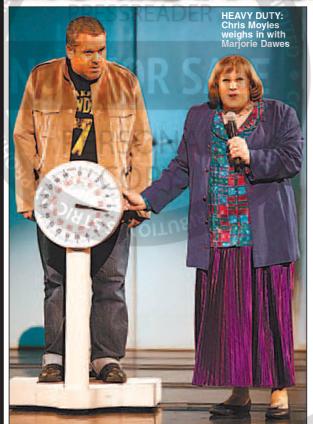
ROBIN Hood is returning to BBC1 for a second series. The show has received mixed reviews and over a million viewers switched off after the first episode. But the Beeb has recommissioned the Saturday night show and another 13-part series will air next year.

BBC1 controller Peter Fincham said: "Robin Hood's been a hit with family audiences, playing in a tough slot on the most competitive night of the week. "I'm thrilled that we have a new series to look

forward to next year."
Jonas Armstrong, 25, will return as Robin, Keith Allen, 53, as the Sheriff of Nottingham and Lucy Griffiths, 19, as Marian.

on your mobile!

Matt and David's star-studded bash for Comic







EXCLUSIVE • by MARK JEFFRIES

IT was the craziest night ever on a London stage – and soon you'll be able to enjoy the fun too on a blockbuster DVD.

Little Britain's Matt Lucas, 32, and David

blockbuster DVD.

Little Britain's Matt Lucas, 32, and David Walliams, 35, invited a host of pals to help raise cash for Comic Relief.

It was such a huge success that talks are taking place to have it released in the shops. And it's likely to be the fastest-selling DVD ever.

Kate Moss, 32, dressed as Vicky Pollard's "total slag" twin sister Katie and randy Russell Brand, 31, appeared as a plumber who loves wearing female lingerie.

Jonathan Ross, 45, was covered in sick by racist pensioner Maggie.

Matt and David even managed to get the real Dennis Waterman, 58, on stage to sing the theme tune to the TV favourite Minder.

Radio 1 DJ Chris Moyles, 32, was persuaded to attend Fat Fighters. And X Factor presenter Kate Thornton, 33, hosted a Stars In Their Eyes special.

Afterwards, Walliams showed he hasn't lost his touch with the laydees by cuddling up to Kate Moss and Patsy Kensit, 38, an ex-girlfriend who also appeared in the show as a hairy-underarmed student.

Telly cameras were at the bash at Hammersmith Apollo and highlights will be broadcast on Red Nose Day 2007 on Friday March 16.

Desperate

But charity bosses want to release the show as a DVD with behind-the-scenes footage and interviews with some of the special guests.

A source said: "It was such a fantastic show that millions of people will be desperate to tune in on Comic Relief night. "But it's unlikely they will be able to screen the whole show because there is so much footage and some of the sketches are quite near the mark."

A Comic Relief spokesman said: "Little Britain fans who didn't have the chance to watch the exclusive gala performance can enjoy excerpts as part of the BBCI Red Nose Day and snap up a DVD of the show, also available in March.

"Proceeds from Little Britain's Big Night

Day and snap up a DVD of the show, also available in March.

"Proceeds from Little Britain's Big Night show and sales of the DVD will go to Comic Relief and helping poor and vulnerable people in the UK and Africa."

It will be the second DVD Matt and David have released for Comic Relief.

The first, featuring guest appearances by Robbie Williams, 32, and Sir Elton John, 59, raised more than £1 million for charity and was the fastest-selling DVD ever at HMV.

And when Walliams swam the Channel earlier this year he raised £1m for Sport Relief.

For more information about the charity and events, go to www.rednoseday.com

events, go to www.rednoseday.com

mark.jefferies@dailystar.co.uk

Relief tipped to be the fastest-selling DVD ever



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CHUNDERFUL: Maggie throws up over chat show host Ross, inset



Booze ban is net fair

BRITISH shoppers have been dealt a blow.

Euro judges have refused to lift a ridiculous ban that prevents us buying cheap booze and cigarettes online or over the phone from other

The restriction stops consumers from making huge savings by avoiding the UK's punitive excise duties.

Chancellor Gordon Brown will be pleased. He would have lost billions in revenues had the judges ruled

the other way.

We imagine Scrooge will have celebrated with a whisky - £15 a bottle in Scotland where it's made, but only £10 if it was bought mail order from Latvia.

Mr Brown shouldn't get too merry, though, because the battle continues. EU chiefs plan to bring in legislation that would overrule the judges.

It's not often we act as cheerleaders for the Eurocrats, but we do so on this

Give Mr Brown a bloody nose!

Give them the bullet

TONY BLAIR promised to provide our troops in Afghanistan with the best possible equipment.

But yesterday the Defence Ministry admitted supplying them with defective ammunition.

They were given 50p bullets made in Pakistan and the Czech Republic instead of £1 rounds from the usual manufacturers.

The result was that the lives of British soldiers were put at risk in clashes with the Taliban.

Machine guns and other weapons jammed during ferocious firefights.

One platoon was so angry they refused to go on patrol until given the proper tools for the job.

Other soldiers have suffered the humiliation of begging ammo from their American and Canadian colleagues.

It is beyond belief that our troops were treated like this.

The Defence Ministry penpusher who ordered these dodgy bullets to scrimp on costs should be sacked.

And "commander-in-chief" Blair should go with him.

Woe-men!

WOMEN say they want longer legs, larger breasts, thinner thighs and different noses.

Other than that, everything's perfect!



"Whoa...what a night. What did you say your name was again?"

What women really want:

..and fellas can't help out

FORGET big boobs and perky bums -women really want to show more leg.

Brit girls dream of hav-ing the long legs of actress Cameron Diaz and Big Brother's Kate Lawler, and would love their legs to be

at least two inches longer.
Women in the UK are on
average 5ft 4in tall, which
means the average outside
leg length is 37.6in.

Dreaming

But almost a third of women want longer legs, with 57% opting to have an extra two inches, 38% dreaming of four inches and an ambitious 5% dreaming of growing five inches or more. Charlie's Angels star Cameron, 34, who dates 25-year-old pop hunk Justin Timberlake, and super-fit Kate are widely regarded as having the best legs in the business.

Over the summer, Kate, 26 was even the face of a contest to find Britain's Best Legs.

■ by NADINE LINGE

But figure-conscious Brit emales also fancy changing other body bits with 22% saying they would love bigger boobs. Proving that women are

never happy with their looks a buxom 9% said they want smaller breasts.

smaller breasts.

The survey for drinks firm
Lambrini also found 19% of
babes wanted slimmer thighs and 14% would alter their

Just 12% of British women

Just 12% of British women are perfectly happy with their face and figure and would not change a thing. Leeds lasses are most desperate for a leg-up – a whopping 53% want longer pins. But only 13% of satisfied Swansea girls would plump for lengthier pins.

That is also the region where women are happiest with their curves – a whopping 52% would not change a thing about their appearance. Mancunian girls are the ones who most want to boost their boobs, with a quarter wishing for a larger chest.

They are also the ladies least

They are also the ladies least happy with their looks – not a single Manchester babe quizzed said they would not change a thing.

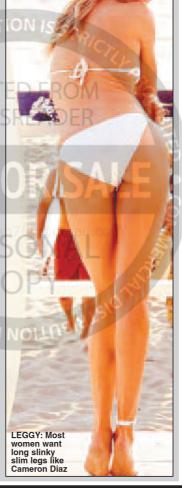
A third of London lasses are pleased with their bods, though 22% want longer legs and 13% want to be curvien.

Brummie babes are unhappy with their legs – 36% want more length – while 18% dream of bigger breasts.

Content

Most Scots women want to change their bodies but Swansea females are general-ly content with their figures. Swaitsa teiniaes are genete;
But around a quarter of
Cardiff women would like
longer legs and bigger boobs.
Geraldine Marks, spokeswoman for Lambrini, said:
"Flaunting your pins to
perfection has more to do
with how you show them off.
"Women with truly greatlooking legs know the trick to
being sex on legs – we don our
favourite pair of sparkly
tights, put on the highest
heels we own and flash our
biggest smile."

Radine.linge @dailystalc.co.uk



E ACE RE

FOOTBALLER Craig Bellamy grabbed a girl by the throat and branded her a "fat slag" after she bumped into him,

a court heard yesterday.

The Liverpool and Welsh international went on trial accused of assaulting Sophie Palmer and her friend Holly Smith, both 20.

friend Holly Smith, both 20.

He allegedly went into a rage when the pair collided with him in a corridor near the VIP section of a trendy nightculu. Mike Hammett, prosecuting, told magistrates that "words were exchanged" before the striker grabbed Miss Smith by the wrist and called her a "c**".

Miss Smith by the wrist and called her a "C***.

He said the girls walked away but Bellamy, 27, lunged at Miss Palmer after calling her a "fat slag" and pinned her against a wall by the throat.

Bellamy allegedly squeezed her neck hard enough to cause bruising and recent scars from a breast enhancement operation to open up and start bleeding.

The £50,000-a-week star's pal and minder F r a n k l y n Lynch – a martial arts expert – then allegedly grabbed Miss Palmer in a bear hug when she tried to get help from doormen sne tried to get help from door-men Both women

complained to police and claimed trouble flared when Bellamy eyed them up in the No 10 club in Cardiff.

Cardiff.

The court was told when Miss Palmer asked him what he was looking at, he replied to her: "if I was looking at anyone it would be those two behind you because they are far prettier." **NOT GUILTY PLEA: Craig Bellamy**

one it would be those two behind you because they are far prettier."
Miss Smith allegedly slapped him, so he later made his own assault complaint to police.
Giving evidence at Cardiff Magistrates' Court yesterday, Miss Palmer said: "I began to walk through the gap and Craig Bellamy was walking in the other direction and he bumped into me. He was quite aggressive, he was just swaggering around.
"I turned around and said to him: Excuse me, why couldn't you wait in that gap there?"
"He said to me: 'You're to of *** ing fat to get past me you fat slag.' He was very aggressive and very arrogant." She

■ by GARY NICKS

claimed she shrugged off his response and kept walking, but she looked back and saw him "having words" with Miss

Smith.

And she alleged Bellamy attacked her when she went to intervene.

She told the court: "I saw my friend Holly talking to Bellamy then Bellamy grabbed me by the neck and held me against the toilet door.

Strangled

"He was holding me around the neck and squeezing."
Miss Palmer said she could hear people shouting: "Get him off her" before they were separated.
She said she told doormen she had been attacked and pointed the player out saying: "That's the guy who just strangled me."
That prompted Lynch to go for Miss Palmer and

ch to go for Miss Palmer and force her out of the VIP section by the neck, the court heard.

Miss Palmer said: "He was repeating: 'Get her the f*** out,' and he still bouncers were telling Lynch to calm down and that he eventually let her go after frogmarching her.

out.
Bellamy's solicitor John Charles Rees QC suggested the girls the girls thought they could cash in on Bellamy's celebrity status. He said she had tried to contact the foot tact the foot-baller through a

A:Craig Bellamy

A:Craig Bellamy

She denied asking for anything other than an apology and said: "If you held up a picture of the Welsh squad I couldn't tell you who they were."

Mr Charles Rees also suggested that she knew Lynch because he was a popular figure on the Cardiff nightclub scene and she used to be a barmaid at No 10.

No 10.

He asked her: "Do you have a thing about celebrities being in the club? You know what I mean, don't you?"

Bellamy, of Cardiff, and Lynch, 52, of Barry, south Wales, deny assault following the alleged bust-up at 2am on February 5 this year.

The trial continues.







PLEDGE: Tony Blair

Army's ammo howler

by JAMES WATSON
THE Ministry of Defence
has admitted supplying
defective ammunition to
soldiers in Afghanistan.
A platoon of Paras
refused to go on patrol
until the problem was
resolved. And the MoD has
now confirmed British
troops were forced to
borrow ammo off
American and Canadian
soldiers.
It comes after Tony Blair,
on a visit to troops in
Afghanistan last week,
promised to provide them
with the best equipment.

Cheaper

The dodgy batch for the .50 calibre machine gun is believed to have come from the Czech Republic or Pakistan, where prices are much cheaper.

A Para showed how poor the rounds were in a video on the YouTube website.

An MoD spokeswoman said: "There was a single, defective batch. Some ammunition was borrowed from the Americans and Canadians for the short time it took to replace."

A curfew was imposed in Baghdad last night after Sunni suicide bombers killed more than 150.

The Star Says: Page 6



Dog girl on mend

A GIRL of three who was nearly mauled to death by her grandparents' Dobermann, was moved out of intensive care

out of intensive care yesterday.
Hope Dew's condition is improving steadily. A police spokesman said:
'Her family are encouraged by her progress.'
Hope was playing in her grandparents' garden in the village of Claverdon, Warwickshire, on Wednesday when the dog clamped her head in its teeth and flung her around.

teeth and Hung Hel around. She is being treated in Birmingham Children's Hospital. The dog has been destroyed.

BABE RATE FALLS

THE teenage pregnancy rate in England has fallen by 3% since the 1999 launch of a strategy to halve it by 2010.

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BROWNED OFF: Faith

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OFFICIAL I'm A Celebrity paper



hot and bothered.
nger has had 40 soapy washes
specially-built waterfall in just
nat's far more than any other
uit an insider said: "Who can
' She has the best bod in there.'

■ from PETER DYKE in Oz

VIEWERS were left gasping last night as TV chiefs pulled an eviction vote shocker which set DJ Toby Anstis against actor Dean Gaffney.

The loser was the first out of the jungle after the blokes flunked the battle of the sexes trial.

In a show first, bosses told the other men they were safe, then made Toby and Dean wait an agonising hour to discover if a special head-to head phone vote had kicked them out.

head phone vote had kicked them out.
David, Matt, Jason and Scott were all safe at least for another day. Amazingly, camp fashion designer Scott Henshall, 31, was still in the contest despite fluffing his task and arguing with Phina.

He survived after he kissed and made up with the Scouse Footballers' Wives actress who bit and scratched him in a Celebrity Chest bust-up.

He whined: "I really don't want to be the first out." Last night hosts Ant and Dec told him: "It's not you."

The lads lost to the girls in a vital challenge when wimpy Scott failed in a Bushtucker Trial against Phina Oruche. That left the boys at the mercy of TV viewers. Bookies Beitair had 35-year-old Toby Anstis at 6-1 or Matt Willis, 23, priced at 9-1 for the chon the chop.
Scott and Footie Wives babe Phina Oruche

Allsts at 6-10 Matt Winks, 25, picted at 9-10if the chop.

Scott and Footie Wives babe Phina Oruche, 31, had gone head-to-head earlier in the day in a gruelling trial called What Lurks Beneath. Hosts Ant and Dec, both 31, revealed that whoever won it landed a very special prize. The victor would win immunity for their whole "tribe" in last night's first eviction. Both had to dive into a swamp full of crocs, eels and snakes and retrieve as many gold stars as possible. Phina grabbed the most, ther six stars meant the girls were spared from eviction. The lads were left pleading with fans to be kept in. And David Gest, 53, asked viewers to get him OUT. He said: "The greatest thing to me would be for you to give your votes to Matt and Jason. "Tve had a great time here and I have enjoyed it and I feel that they deserve to win and be King of the Jungle." He said of the eviction: "I'm kind of hoping it's me because I can take it. I can go out and hold my head high and know that I did my best on this show." He added: "Everyone has seen me with no hair stuff and this is who I am. Everyone has learned something and if not then you are an idiot. David added: You can't do this show putting on an act."

FAITH was m

this show putting on an act.



SHOCK: DJ Toby Anstis was put in a spin by twist



ROCKED: EastEnder Dean Gaffnev had nervous wait

Jungle Grapevine...Jungle Grapevine

HEAD CASE: David Gest

PHINA apologised for biting Scott, who said: "I don't expect to be bitten on a game show."

SAUCY Phina said if cameras were not on the girls 24/7 she'd "be naked in a shot".

DOPEY Scott burned his socks on the camp fire.

JASON'S growing a beard. Faith said he looks "very sexy".

FAITH joked: "I was moved to the

back of the class as a kid because when I stood up I cleaned the black-board."

MYLEENE enjoys David's tall stories and wanted "to live in his head for a day".

FAITH got rid of some peacock feathers because they bring bad luck.

MYLEENE agreed:
"I was given a
cloak made of them and fell over in front of the Queen."

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Stores up to 100,000 nusic tracks

News in brief

game but footballers can be such prima donnas, according to the Queen.
The 80-year-old chatted to Premier League chairman Sir David Richards as she bestowed his knighthood at Buckingham Palace.
Sir David, 63, revealed: "She said to me: 'Aren't they prima donnas?' But it's a wonderful game.' I said: 'Yes Ma'am, some of them are.'"



Cop's fast food

HUNGRY traffic policeman Stephen Akrill walked free from court after speeding in his marked LandRover on the way to pick up a Chinese takeaway. He was zapped doing 48mph in a 40mph-zone as he went to collect a dish of sweet and sour pork. But Pc Akrill, 41, was cleared of speeding by Rotherham magistrates after claiming he had set off to attend a crash and so could lawfully ignore speed signs. He said he only diverted to the take away when he was told he was no longer needed at the crash scene at Wickersley, South Yorks.



BA hit by crossfire

JACK STRAW last night hit out at British Airways for banning staff from openly wearing the cross. As pressure mounted in Parliament for BA to retreat, Mr Straw said: "I find the ban on wearing a cross or indeed a Star of David in equivalent circumstances, as I say, wholly inexplicable." More than 100 MPs from all parties have signed motions condemning BA for banning check-in worker Nadia Eweida, 55, from wearing her crucifix. BA also came under attack from a civil liberties group after she lost an appeal against the decision.

THE ex-wife of former England footballer Carlton Palmer is threatening further legal action to force him to repay £110,000 she lent him.

A judge has already ordered Palmer, 40, to cough up the cash, which he used to set up a property empire in Spain.

Ex-wife Jenny, 44, said: "I want my money back because it is for our children's future." Palmer said: "I've a problem with the amount owed."



ORDER: Palmer

24-hour thumbs-up

ABOUT 3,000 licensed premises can sell booze at all hours, but the year-old law has not created a 24-hour drinking culture, the Government insisted yesterday. Licensing Minister Shaun Woodward said the shake-up was having a "positive impact". Four out of five premises close by lam. A fifth of pubs, bars and clubs close by 1pm and half shut by midnight. Pubs, bars and clubs make up just 20% of the total number of premises with 24-hour licences. Supermarkets make up 25% and convenience stores another 20%. The remaining 35% covers hotels.

STAR NEWS







STUMPED: Fans nod off at the close of play

BLEARY-EYED Brits are spending another day kipping on the job after a second all-nighter watching the Ashes action.

Hundreds of thousands of cricket fans stayed up last night to follow Freddie Flintoff's men attempt-ing to fight back against the rampant Aussies.

ing to fight back against the rampant Aussies.

The drama unfolded between midnight and 7am, meaning no sleep for die hard fams. It was a repeat of the previous night, when sports bars were packed solid as revellers kept up with the Aussies' onslaught.

Then, 1200 Barmy Army members and Aussie Fanatics were at the central London's Sports Cafe to watch the game.

Details The Manager of the provided High Sports of th

Patio

Fan John Hale, 34, from Chiswick, west London, packed a clean shirt and tie to head straight back to work at the close of play. He said: "I'm going to have a fry-up here and then go to work for a delivery at 8am."

Nick Barber, 28, from Relsize Park north London

Belsize Park, north London, said: "If the missus had not wanted a new patio I'd be

■ by TOM SAVAGE

over in Brisbane now."
Aussie Dave Middleton, 27, from Queensland's Gold Coast, said: "I'm off to work at stumps, then I'll be home for a bit of sleep and back here tonight."

Meanwhile at The Gabba in Brisbane, where the action unfolded, the Barmy Army remained in good voice - outsinging the local support once more.

One of 5,000 England fans, Roy Nolan, 42, from Walsall, said: "It's been quiet. Aussies don't know how to enjoy cricket."

Tom.savage @dailystar.co.uk

'S: Page

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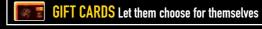
BREAKTHROUGH: Freddie celebrates his first wicket







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successful careers when the show ends.

Hospital porter Jim, said his sons have never said they wanted to win the talent show and entered for fun. He said:

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FUN: The MacDonalds

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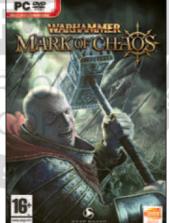




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Family of forgers almost bring down Bank of England





TECHNOLOGY: One of the confi machines, which was used to in foil strips in the counterfeit note



■ by JAMES WICKHAM

A FAMILY of master forgers flooded Britain with so many fake £20 notes the banking

system nearly collapsed.

Detectives reckon the gang could have run off up to £25million a year on printing machines which were supposed to make Christmas cards.

Supposed to make Christmas cards.

In 2005 alone, the Bank of England recovered more than £14 million-worth of £20 notes made by the gang.

Police found a further £450,000 in a caravan and £22,000 in sheltered housing where an 85-year-old great grandmother of the crime family lived.

Millions more are still in circulation. Yesterday, riot police had to be called into court as nine members of the 11-strong gang were sentenced to over 41 years in prison.

Supporters of the forgers screamed death threats at court officials and police and hurled objects at them.

Gang "mum" Tracy Byard, collapsed in the dock and members of her family tried to force open the door of the secure dock to help her.

Riot police split up the crowd, got the public and officials out of a side door and called for an ambulance.

Dodgy

Earlier the court had heard how two thirds of all the dodgy £20 notes circulating in 2005 were produced by the "family business" in "the largest counterfeiting case ever".

The gang ranged in age from 23 to 71 years old and operated from workshops in east London and Essex.

The court heard that the notes were produced in three stages. The first involved the printing, then adding silver security foil and finally finishing the note off with a laser in a labour intensive scam.

Tim Cray, prosecuting, told Snaresbrook Crown Court: "This conspiracy was regarded as a threat of the highest order to the banking system.

"It also involved the production of counterfeit notes on an industrial scale."

Terrence Reife, 55, of Cheshunt, Herts, Londoners Anthony Williams, 50, of Hoxton, James Brook, 64, of Dalston, and Paul Kemble, 42, of Islington all admitted conspiracy to produce fake sterling and Euronotes. Gerald Byard, 63, of Hoxley, Essex, admitted conspiracy to produce bogus sterling notes.

Patrick Wingrove, 71, of Shoreditch admitted possession of counterfeit Euros and sterling, Tracy Byard, 23, of East Ham, Leigh-Nicole Byard of Benfleet, Essex, and Terrence Jackson, 58, of Rochford, Essex, were all convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit notes.

Michael Liddiard, 59, of Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make counterfeit for Shoreditch, was convicted of conspiracy to make co

Keely Williams will be sentenced later.
Mr Cray added: "Only the counterfeiters know how many fake bank notes they have put into circulation."

james.wickham@dailystar.co.uk



COLLAPSE: Tracy Byard

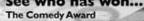


SCAM: James Brook



YOUNGEST: Leigh-Nicole Byard





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See the 2006 Winners on...





SPOTTED

IN London: Sir Ian McKellen switching his table at The lvy, Courtney Love at Gatwick South and Helena Bonham Carter in Budgen's gro-cery store, Belsize Park. In Manchester, Bez from the Happy Mondays chatting to lots of people in the bar area of the Malmaison Hotel and Jennifer Ellison dancing with pals at Twisted Elegance.

FANS are paying £1,500 a ticket to see Michael Jackson at a Christmas party in Tokyo.

The 48-year-old weird one won't even perform at the bash on December 19.

But for a few more bob he has said he will "meet and greet" top-paying "platinum" ticket holders.

Crikey Mikey – seems he's really scraping the barrel.



With LEIGH PURVES, AMY WATTS and CHARLI MORGAN



Aisleyne has last laugh on Jay

Kylie withdraws her festive invite

ROBBIE Williams Should Be So Lucky if he thinks he's spending the festive period with Kylie after admitting wanting to unwrap her for

unwrap her Christmas. The pocket-sized Aussie, 38, invited the Robster, 32, to join the

Aussie, 38, invited the Robster, 32, to join the Minogue clan for a spot of turkey, after hearing he would be on his lonesome Down Under.

But naughty Robbie, right, will have to pull another cracker.

The pop princess, below right, has now politely withdrawn the invitation.

And that's because her fella Olivier Martinez, 40, is royally miffed with Robbie for admitting he is desperate to get into Kylie's Christmas stockings.

Randy Robbie, who recorded the hit Kids with Kylie in 2000, said: "Tve fancied Kylie ever since she was on Neighbours. And that was way back in the Eighties.

"But as a singer, I fancy her even more.
"But she's got that Olivier

more.
"But she's got that Olivier
Martinez guy. I won't get a look in
unless she ditches him.
"He's French and he's good-look-

ing. Isn't life a bitch?" So it looks like poor Rob will be lonely this Christmas. His Close Encounters tour ends in

His Close Encounters tour ends in Melbourne on December 18, so he's staying in Oz over Crimbo.

Our man with the mistletoe explained: "Kylie and Robbie are best friends. And she hated the idea of him being alone over Christmas, when she lives so close.

"So she asked him to come to her family home for the day.

Cutie

"But now she's told Robbie that Olivier might feel a little awkward in his presence.
"So Rob has agreed to find another Sheila to spend Christmas with."

But the nicely-bottomed Australian cutie still adores Robbie.

And she has agreed to join him on stage for a duet of their hit single Kids during his final Show.

show.
She's able to appear because her rescheduled Showgirl tour finishes in Melbourne the day before his does.

does.
Robbie said: "We'll have a great time Down Under."
But not quite the Down Under you were hoping for, eh Rob?

GOT SOME GOS FOR





It's no laughing matter for Alex

THIS is one pose Alex Curran won't want to see as she is caught on camera shopping and cackling away.

It's a far cry from the usual

It's a far cry from the usual svelte images we see of Liverpool and England football ace **Steven Gerrard's** foxy

fiancée. The 23-vear-old blonde flancee. The 23-year-old blonde went on a supersonic shopping spree in Liverpool city centre and, as usual, appeared to have snapped up half her beloved shop Cricket. Including a hat large enough to hide her shame...

QUICKIES...QUICKIES...QUICKIES



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STAR NEWS

GERMAN supermodel Heidi Klum and Brit singer Seal celebrated Thanksgiving in LA with the birth of a new son. Seal, 43, who married Heidi, 33, last May, four months before the birth of their first son Henry, confirmed Johan's arrival on her website. He wrote: "He is healthy, beautiful and looks just like his mother."



NEW ARRIVAL · Heidi

Sadie broke Law

COLD Mountain actor Jude Law is broke after his divorce from Sadie Frost.

Jude said: "I got divorced last year and haven't got any money. I'm renting my house and I'm trying to save up so I can buy it."

The 33-year-old – who recently split from on/off actress girlfriend Sienna Miller, 23, following his divorce from actress Sadie, 41 – also admits he has made had carper choice.

made bad career choices. He said: "I haven't had a hit. They are all films I like but no-one else seems to."



HOLLYWOOD actor Billy Zane has revealed that since he met fiancée Kelly Brook he doesn't

fiancée Kelly Brook he doesn-go out.

The 40-year-old Titanic star revealed: "I much prefer spending my evenings at home with my lady."

Billy, who recently bought a Kent farmhouse with the model, 27, can next be seen in Alien Agent, out next year.

HOME-BIRD: Billy

Blonde's ambition

POP queen Jessica Simpson is baffled by reports that she's about to star in a remake of the movie Working Girl. But fair-haired Jessica, 26, has landed the load in

Working Girl.
But fair-haired Jessica, 26, has landed the lead in Blonde Ambition – which has a similar theme.
She said: "It's about a small-town girl moving to New York and turning into a great businesswoman.
"I've never played a leading role before so it's going to be really nice to dive in and just kinda wrap my arms around it!"
Blonde Ambition will be out next year.

HOLLYWOOD star Leonardo

DiCaprio has warned against buying dodgy diamonds. Leo, 32, plays a mercenary in his new film Blood Diamond about deals for "conflict dia-monds" in Sierra Leone which monds" in Sierra Leone which funded a bloody civil war and cost thousands of lives. He said: "One way to end this is to make sure that you don't buy conflict diamonds."



OJ 'blood money'

OJ SIMPSON admits his controversial TV and book

OJ SIMPSON admits his controversial TV and book deal was nothing more than "blood money". He reportedly got £1.8million for the deal in which he told how he "would have" killed ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman. It created shockwaves when publisher Judith Regan said: "I consider this his confession." The book and show have since been scrapped. OJ has rubbished her confession claim. He said: "Everyone's made money on me. It's all blood money and, unfortunately, I had to join the jackals."





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